## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A conditional access (CA) system comprising:

a computing resource configured to run a CA protocol;

a smart card interface; and

a software wrapper configured to couple the smart card interface to the CA protocol.

2. The CA system of claim 1, wherein the smart card interface complies substantially with International Organization for Standardization standard 7816 (ISO 7816).

3. The CA system of claim 1, wherein the CA protocol is selected from the group consisting of National Renewable Security Standard Part B (NRSS-B), OpenCable™ Host Point Of Deployment Interface Specification (POD), Common Interface Specification for Conditional Access and other Digital Video Broadcasting Decoder Applications (CI), and Conditional Access System for Terrestrial Broadcast (ATSC-A70).

4. The CA system of claim 1, wherein the software wrapper is configured to run on the computing resource.

5. A smart card interface comprising:

a smart card receptacle for coupling to a smart card to communicate smart card signals;

a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) Application Programming Interface (API); and

wrapper software interfacing the smart card signals and the PCMCIA API.

6. The smart card interface of claim 5, where the PCMCIA API is a CA API.

7. The smart card interface of claim 6, where the smart card signals are received from an ISO 7816 smart card.

8. A conditional access (CA) system comprising:

means for executing a CA program;

means for coupling to a smart card interface; and

means for executing interfacing software.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein interfacing software comprises:

means for coupling to smart card signals;

means for coupling to the CA program API; and

means for routing the smart card signals to and from the CA program.

10. A conditional access (CA) method comprising:

routing signals received from a smart card interface to interface software;

coupling an output of the interface software to an API of a CA protocol;

coupling an output of the CA protocol to an input of the interface software; and

routing output signals of the interface software to the smart card interface.

11. A conditional access (CA) method comprising:

routing smart card signals to interface software executing on a first computing resource;

coupling the inputs and outputs of the interface software to a CA protocol executing on a second computing resource; and

executing a software wrapper program on a third computing resource coupling a smart card interface to the CA protocol.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the first computing resource, the second computing resource, and the third computing resource are a common computing resource.

13. A method for interfacing to a conditional access protocol, the method comprising:

receiving signals and data from a smart card interface;

transforming the received signals and data from the smart card interface into a format compatible with the conditional access protocol;

presenting the transformed received signals and data from the smart card interface to a conditional access system implementing the conditional access protocol;

receiving from the conditional access system signals and data;

transforming the received signals and data from the conditional access system into a format compatible with the smart card interface; and

presenting the transformed received signals and data from the conditional access system to the smart card interface.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the smart card interface is an ISO 7816 smart card interface.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the conditional access protocol is a standard conditional access protocol.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the standard conditional access protocol is selected from the group consisting of National Renewable Security Standard Part B (NRSS-B), OpenCable™ Host Point Of Deployment Interface Specification (POD), Common Interface Specification for Conditional Access and other Digital Video Broadcasting Decoder Applications (CI), and Conditional Access System for Terrestrial Broadcast (ATSC-A70).

17. A conditional access (CA) system comprising:

a first computing resource configured to execute a NRSS-B protocol;

an ISO 7816 smart card interface; and

a software wrapper configured to execute on a second computing resource to couple the ISO 7816 smart card interface to the NRSS-B protocol.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the first computing resource and the second computing resource are a same computing resource.

19. A machine-readable program storage medium tangibly embodying information allowing a machine to perform a method for conditional access, the method comprising:

receiving signals and data from a smart card interface;

transforming the received signals and data from the smart card interface into a format compatible with the conditional access protocol;

presenting the transformed received signals and data from the smart card interface to a conditional access system implementing the conditional access protocol;

receiving from the conditional access system signals and data;

transforming the received signals and data from the conditional access system into a format compatible with the smart card interface; and

presenting the transformed received signals and data from the conditional access system to the smart card interface.

20. A conditional access (CA) system comprising:

a first computing resource configured to execute a first CA protocol;

a second computing resource configured to execute a second CA protocol; and

a third computing resource configured to couple the first computing resource to the second computing resource.

21. The conditional access (CA) system of claim 20 wherein the second CA protocol is not an industry standard CA protocol.

22. The conditional access (CA) system of claim 21 wherein the second CA protocol interfaces to a smart card.

23. The conditional access (CA) system of claim 20 wherein the third computing resource configured to couple the first computing resource to the second computing resource is further configured such that the second CA protocol is substantially compliant with the first CA protocol.

24. The conditional access (CA) system of claim 20 wherein the first computing resource, the second computing resource, and the third computing resource execute code on a single processor.